**National Platform on Land and Water Management  
Steering Committee meeting – ILRI campus, November 1, 2013**

**Present:** Adane Kassa (chair), Betru Nedessa (vice-chair), Kees Swaans (secr.), Melaku Tadesse, Deres Abdulkadir, Belay Demissie, Simon Langan

**Absent**: Kifle Abegaz, Feyera Abdi, Dejene Abesha (apologized)

**Note taker:** Kees Swaans

**Agenda**

* 1. Opening/introduction/announcements
  2. Continuation of the platform

Break: SC group picture

* 1. Review minutes former SC meeting
  2. Feedback on regional stakeholder dialogue in Bahir Dar
  3. NBDC end of closure events
  4. Summary action items and closing

1. **Opening /Introduction and announcements**

Kees

* Kees welcomed the attendees, and indicated that due to the closure of the NBDC this will be the last official SC meeting.
* On suggestion by Belay, agenda has been re-arranged as stated above
* On suggestion by Simon, a short round around the table was made to inform people about activities/new developments

Simon

* Office of IWMI has grown considerably recently. NBDC comes to a close, but other big CGIAR Research Programs will start, such as Humidtropics and Water, Land and Ecosystems.
* Simon joined the Small scale irrigation task force and starts to serve as TF secretary which is a positive step towards alignment.
* Projects of interest to NP:
  + New project with Geological Survey and Newcastle University; 1 year project, hopefully continued afterwards with additional funding (project on participatory monitoring on uses of ground water)
  + Project on carbon investment with SARI and Hawasa University (Alaba woreda).
  + Round-up workshop on spate-irrigation, expanding and may require help
  + USAID innovation lab on small scale irrigation modeling

Melaku

* 1st phase of SLMP has phased out in September, while opening new phase by next year; very busy; apologies for overlap and not being able to attend regularly the SC meeting.
* SLM has included 2-3 new activities/outputs: climate smart activities, conversation agriculture, and agroforestry. Studies (e.g. with involvement of Norway, ICRAF, IWMI etc.) will be conducted in selected watersheds; phase 1 has 45 watersheds; now 90 new watersheds included. Some ideas will be incorporated in project implementation manual. Also important to mention is project on carbon-stock underground (assisted by WB). Different sites will be selected for different studies/projects).

Deres:

* RiPPLE started as a 5 year project funded by DFID overseen by ODI (2006-2011); conceived as a WASH based research program; pillars related to knowledge management, capacity building, policy engagement (but also related to other sectors, food security, climate change etc.).
* RiPPLE continued as local NGO, since April 2012. Various activities in collaboration with e.g. Unicef, various Dutch organizations, SNV, UNESCO, and ODI in areas that are related to water, food security and climate change. Currently operating in 4 major regions of the country on scaling up multiple use services (e.g. in related to rain water harvesting) in areas which have severe water shortages, with collaborative activities on water supply, sanitation, irrigation, etc.
* New project developed with USAID, on Waste management (in relation to the lake Hawassa); developed concept note to do research to address this problem related to ecological effects as well as water supply for Hawassa city. Going to study this during next 2 years. May need additional expertise.

Adane

* Water Action is indigenous NGO developed by Ethiopian professionals; operating in three regions, Amhara, Southern nations and Oromia; main objective to alleviate poverty through capacity building etc. Since establishment with assistance of Water AIDS, done big gravity schemes in various areas. They are known in the country, even acknowledged internationally. Up to 127.000 people (27 villages); 3 district s in the area; bigger schemes community management, sustained over last 15-16 years, financially, technically, socially, having been found exemplary; many more projects, but not all as sustainable as the bigger ones.
* In term of water resource management; started 12 years ago in lower Harbu, South Wollo, through funding partnerships with CRS, found to be useful, results showed that it benefitted farmers (documented, can be shared); Upper Harbu watershed, now working on Ancharro water shed; they support each other. Some have become examples for others, has saving and landing type of activities, forest cover changes, changes in lives of farmers (few of them have started exporting fruits etc). Pioneer in rain water harvesting, working with schools and monasteries, developed a manual for RWH. Like to collaborate in implementation of programs; esp. such as geological survey (do all kind of water resource development).

Betru

* MERET was initially food for work program, but changed focus to livelihoods. Land degradation is key issue, which has effect on production; hence change of focus from relief to development to improve food security; with that objective change in program focus (where there were serious problems with food and land degradation). Initially 10-17 watersheds; developed into 117 watersheds; ranged from 10 to 30,000 ha (in size).
* First project in this country to start this large scale projects on NRM. After centralization; top down; people were not participating; hence local level participatory approach; community empowered for decision making; now used as national approach in watershed management.
* People improved productivity, feeds, forestry. Before food shortage 5-6 months, after 5-6 years of project implementation, this reduced to 2-3 months. Dramatic change. Cannot fully address food security/livelihoods, hence integrating income generation technologies etc. There has been gradual change on climate, livelihoods etc.
* Promising SLM packages, but now come to closure in next 2-3 years due to shortage of money.

Belay:

* Belay joining ATA, as senior director heading value chain program.

Simon:

* Having heard everyone, makes me realize how important it is to have a platform for reflection.

1. **Continuation of the platform**

Presentation National Platform (see presentation attached)

Melaku

* In my view good; having discussed with Dr. Belay before. I see alignment and integration with different TFs helpful and good, to induce inter-TF collaboration and different programs. TFs do not accommodate all organizations (10-15 org) (needs to have room for others to join); platform need to be represented in larger platform of RED-FS (which is led by the minister of MOA). Alignment should be under the SLM TC which is led by the state minister for NRM sector (not directorate).

Deres:

* Good conclusion; looking at options presented; …tending to agree with the CG led system and last one on alignment with existing coordination mechanisms. When looking at continuity….always needs to be a need to take ownership for the Ministry…..role of RiPPle is of facilitator and financer for continuity of platform.; partnership with the Rain Foundation included running costs of FLOWS in that project. The second option with ownership for ministry is good, but unless financed, we cannot guarantee continuity; and someone needs to be responsible for running it (either under CG and/or Ministry). It requires resource and responsibility.

Betru:

* To ensure continuity for the platform some kind of secretariat needs to be financially supported which takes care of the platform, otherwise, there will be a gap. Permanent secretariat crucial and need to be permanent supported (e.g. by MOA etc…and funding from different sources). For me the platform would be more useful than any other; at the moment there is not an efficient mechanism for sharing best practices etc.

Melaku:

* Secretariat can be under RED-FS; 3 technical working groups are under Red-FS. There has already been a proposal to increase the staff number added to RED-FS secretariat to support different technical committees and which can take up these tasks.

Betru:

* Important that Simon/Belay discuss this with Ato Seleshi.

Simon:

* Already wrote to his Excellency to convey the NBDC key messages, so we are in touch with him and will follow up on this as well.
* **Action item: Let the national platform be aligned with the exiting government coordination mechanism under the SLM TC, but by also strengthening the RED/FS secretariat by hiring one permanent staff for the day to day follow up, platform organization, experience sharing and inter task force coordination role for results. Belay to follow up and get commitment from higher level, this can then lead to concrete follow up action if needed (Belay/Simon).**

**Break: SC group picture**

1. **Review minutes former SC meeting**

Minutes approved; action items done

1. **Feedback on regional stakeholder dialogue in Bahir Dar**

Simon:

* Regional Stakeholder Dialogue in Bahir Dar; very useful >40 org represented (wide range of people, including donor community). Presentation of NBDC and key messages. Everyone very positive about where NBDC got to and interested how to move forward at regional level; task force formed of about 10 people; we asked who would be interested to take some of the work forward (not led by CG); at end of discussion, Dr. Birru, acting director of ARARI took it forward. In October WLE meeting, suggestion was made for organization to develop concept notes…may take some time, as it needs to fit in framework

Kees

* Important that concept notes/proposal are broadly shared by the task force, so that it remains driven by a broad platform (task force)

Betru:

* Is the Bahir Dar workshop report ready?

Kees

* Report will be shared soon.

Simon:

* Also proceedings of NBDC science workshop are finalized.
* **Action item: Kees to share Regional Stakeholder Dialogue report when ready**

1. **NBDC end of closure events**

End of closure events; evening 14 Nov, invite people for Sheraton; high level people; on Friday wider audience with farmers, development agents, universities etc. to come and join and share experiences, conclude.

End of closure event on 15 Nov, will have ‘open microphone approach’; Alan/Simon to share their experiences with NBDC and will ask partners to share their ideas as well (what was useful, and how to take that forward). It would be good if someone from the SC says something on the national platform and its continuation.

1. **Summary action items and closing**

* Action item: Belay/Simon to follow up and get commitment from higher level, this can then lead to concrete follow up action if needed (Belay/Simon). Belay will keep the SC members informed.
* Action item: Kees to share Regional Stakeholder Dialogue report when ready